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(54) **Time code signal generator for time code recording apparatus**

(57) A time code generator for a time code recording apparatus, in which, when recording video signals at a speed of N times, in order to generate a corresponding time code, the time code value is incremented from the initial value of time code at N frame steps, the time code value skipped at this time is interpolated, and the incremented time code value and the interpolated time code value are arranged and issued in a specified sequence.

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## Description

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a time code signal generator used in a time code signal recording apparatus.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Hitherto, when recording by a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus, it is general to record video signal in real time that is, at a same speed, in other words, video signals of 60 minutes are recorded in 60 minutes. Such prior art is disclosed, for example, in USP 4,503,470.

[0003] Fig. 4 shows a constitution of a time code signal generator for a time code recording apparatus of a conventional magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus. In Fig. 4, a time code preset circuit 20 generates an initial value of time code. A system control circuit 2 generates a mode signal 9 for setting the operating state of recording and reproducing. In this case, the mode signal 9 includes the information as recording and information showing that the recording speed is the same speed.

[0004] The initial value of time code generated in the time code preset circuit 20, the mode signal 9, and control signal 21 are put into a time code counter 22. As the control signal 21, usually, a pulse signal changing in the frame period of video signal is used. This control signal changes, in the case of NTSC signal, in 1/30 second.

[0005] The time code counter 22 counts every time the control signal 21 changes from the initial value, that is, every 1/30 second, and issues time code information. The time code information is put into a time code output circuit 23. In this circuit, in order to record in a recording track, it is converted into a one-bit serial signal, and is sent out to a time code recording circuit (not shown) as recording time code 5.

[0006] This is a prior art recording at a same speed.

[0007] Recently, however, for non-linear editing, video signals are often recorded in a hard disk or transmitted through network, and in such a case it is sometimes required to record or transmit in a shorter time than the real time, for example, in a one-fourth time. In this case, the video signals are recorded, reproduced or transmitted at a speed of four times. Naturally, the same is required when dubbing between magnetic recording and reproducing apparatuses.

[0008] In the case of NTSC, four frames are recorded, reproduced or transmitted in 1/30 second. In such time code recording apparatus of magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus, it is required to increase the signal processing speed and shorten the time necessary for recording, and a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus which is easy to record all information securely and at high speed is being demanded.

[0009] However, the existing time code recording apparatus is limited to an apparatus for recording at normal speed. To realize high speed recording of N times, it is theoretically possible to increase the tape speed N times and increase the oscillation frequency of time code generator N times, but since the operating frequency is a high speed, the operation timing is critical, and the existing circuit does not operate normally. Hence, a new circuit design is necessary.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] It is an object of the invention to present a time code signal generator applicable to high speed recording, and more specifically an apparatus capable recording in a state maintaining the reliability of time code information necessary for video signal, specified timing and continuity, without radically changing the operating speed of the conventional circuit.

[0011] To achieve this object, the invention comprises, for generating corresponding time code when recording video signals at a speed of N times, counting means for incrementing the time code value in N frame steps from the reference time code value of initial value, correcting means for interpolating the skipped time code value, and means for arraying the incremented time code value and interpolated time code value in a specified sequence, and issuing serially. Hence, N times speed time code corresponding to N times speed video signal can be generated securely.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

#### [0012]

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a time code generator for a time code recording apparatus in a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus in an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a time code counting and correcting circuit in an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 3 is a timing chart for explaining the detail of operation in an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 4 is a block diagram of a time code generator for a time code recording apparatus in a conventional magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0013] A preferred embodiment of the invention is described below by referring to Fig. 1 to Fig. 3. In all drawings, it is supposed  $N = 4$ .

[0014] Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a time code generator for a time code recording apparatus in a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus in an embodiment

of the invention. In Fig. 1, a time code preset circuit 1 is a circuit for generating an initial value of time code 8. A system control circuit 2 is a circuit for changing over recording or reproducing mode signal 9, and setting the recording speed, and a time code counting and correcting circuit 3 is a circuit for counting up the control signal 21 on the basis of the mode signal 9 issued from the system control circuit 2, using the initial value of time code 8 issued from the time code preset circuit 1 as the initial value, creating  $N = 4$  specified correction values, operating the count value with the correction values, and newly creating  $N = 4$  time code values. A time code serial output circuit 4 arranges the  $N = 4$  time code information values issued from the time code counting and correcting circuit 3 in the sequential order, and issuing serially in order to record on a recording track.

[0015] Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the detail of the time code counting and correcting circuit 3 in Fig. 1. In Fig. 2, a terminal 10 is a terminal for receiving the initial value of time code 8 issued from the time code preset circuit 1, and terminal 11 is a terminal for receiving the mode signal 9 issued from the system control circuit 2. A correction value generating circuit 12 is a circuit for generating a count-up signal 13 by counting up at every  $N = 4$  whenever the control signal 21 is changed, in the case of the mode signal for recording at  $N = 4$  times speed, on the basis of the mode signal 9 entered from the terminal 11, and also generating  $N = 4$  time code interpolation signals 19, and a time code correcting circuit 14 is a circuit for adding the initial value of time code received through the terminal 10 and the count-up signal 13 issued from the correction value generating circuit 12. A first operating circuit 15, a second operating circuit 16, a third operating circuit 17, and a fourth operating circuit 18 are operating circuits for adding four time code interpolation signals 19 issued from the correction value generating circuit 12, and the corrected time code information value issued from the time code correcting circuit 14, and from the individual operating circuits, four new time code information values are issued to the time code serial output circuit 4.

[0016] Fig. 3 is a timing chart for explaining the operation in an embodiment of the invention. In Fig. 3, interval 1 and interval 2 show reference periods for processing. This interval corresponds to one cycle in (a) below. Fig. 3 (a) shows a control signal 21 for setting the timing of recording, which changes in every  $1/30$  second same as in the prior art in Fig. 4. Fig. 3 (b) shows the initial value of time code 8 issued from the time code preset circuit 1, and the time code information value (fixed value) upon start of recording is issued.

[0017] First, in interval 1 in (b), as the initial value of time code 8 issued from the time code preset circuit 1, the time code information value 8 (hour: minute: second: frame = 00: 00: 00: 00) is put into the time code correcting circuit 14 in the time code counting and correcting circuit 3. At this time, since the speed is four times, the system control circuit 2 gives the mode signal

9 showing four times speed to the correction value generating circuit 12 through the terminal 11. The correction value generating circuit 12 generates a count-up signal 13 (initial value 0) in interval 1.

[0018] In Fig. 3 (c), at every change of the control signal 21, that is, the count-up signal 13 issued from the correction value generating circuit 12, a numerical value for counting up at every numerical value corresponding to the tape speed ( $N = 4$  in the diagram) is issued.

[0019] In the time code correcting circuit 14, this count-up signal 13 and the initial value of time code 8 are added, and the time code information in (d) is issued. In the correction value generating circuit 12, further on the basis of  $N = 4$ , time code interpolation signals 19 of 0, 1, 2, 3 are issued, and the interpolation signal of 0 is given to the operating circuit 15, the interpolation signal of 1 is given to the operating circuit 16, the interpolation signal of 2 is given to the operating circuit 17, and the interpolation signal of 3 is given to the operating circuit 18, and as shown in (e1) to (e4) of interval 1, in the operating circuit 15, the time code information value (00: 00: 00: 00) issued from the time code correcting circuit 14 and the correction value of 0 issued from the correction value generating circuit 12 are operated, and a new time code information value (00: 00: 00: 00) is issued. Similarly, in the operating circuit 16, by the operation of the time code information value (00: 00: 00: 00) and the correction value of 1, a new time code information value (00: 00: 00: 01) is issued, in the operating circuit 17, by the operation of the time code information value (00: 00: 00: 01) and the correction value of 2, a new time code information value (00: 00: 00: 02) is issued, and in the operating circuit 18, by the operation of the time code information value (00: 00: 00: 02) and the correction value of 3, a new time code information value (00: 00: 00: 03) is issued.

[0020] Fig. 3 (e1) to (e4) show the time code interpolation signal 19 (top) entered in the operating circuits 15 to 18 and the time code information value (bottom) issued after operation process.

[0021] In interval 2, the initial value of time code issued from the time code preset circuit 1 in (b) is similar to that in interval 1, and the time code information value 8 (hour: minute: second: frame = 00: 00: 00: 00) is put into the time code correcting circuit 14 in the time code counting and correcting circuit 3.

[0022] In this interval, as shown above, the correction value generating circuit 12 issues "+4" signal as the count-up signal 13 as shown in Fig. 3(c). This value of "+4" of the count-up signal 13 is added to the initial value of time code (00: 00: 00: 00) shown in (b) by the time code correcting circuit, and a new time code information value is obtained (d). The new time code information value (00: 00: 00: 04) in (d) is given to the operating circuit 15, operating circuit 16, operating circuit 17, and operating circuit 18, and operated similarly, and as shown in (e1) to (e4) in interval 2, new time code information values (00: 00: 00: 04 to 00: 00: 00: 07) are

issued. The issued time code information values are put into the time code serial output circuit 4. In the time code serial output circuit 4, four time code values entered parallel are sequentially arranged serially as shown in (f), and converted into one-bit serial signals, and issued as recording time code 5. This signal is recorded in the recording track on the magnetic tape through the recording circuit and recording head not shown in the drawing. The track in which the time code is recorded may be either linear track or the helical track on the magnetic tape.

[0023] By repeating this operation sequentially, when recording at four times speed, the time code information can be recorded continuously. The foregoing description is an example of recording at four times speed ( $N = 4$ ), but when recording at higher speed, it is also possible to execute similarly that is, in the case of  $N$  times speed, the count-up signal is issued as  $+N$ , interpolation values as  $0, 1, 2 \dots, N-1$ . Incidentally, addition of 0 does not actually change the numerical value, and it is only intended to match the timing with other circuits, and calculation is not necessary.

[0024] Thus, according to the invention, by comprising the time code counting and correcting circuit for counting  $N$  steps depending on the recording speed and interpolating the time code, and the time code serial output circuit, when recording at other than normal speed, the operating speed of the circuit is not required to be increased by  $N$  times, and the time code information can be recorded securely while maintaining the continuity.

[0025] As many apparently widely different embodiments of this invention may be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the specific embodiments thereof except as defined in the appended claims.

## Claims

1. A time code generator for generating a time code to be recorded together with video signals of  $N$  times speed when recording the video signals at a speed of  $N$  times,  $N$  being an integer of 2 or more, comprising:
  - system control means which issues a mode signal for setting the operating state of  $N$  times speed recording said video signals,
  - time code preset means which set the initial value of time code,
  - time code counting and correcting means which outputs  $N$  values of time code in parallel at every period of control signal,
  - time code signal output means which arranges and issues the output of said operating means continuously in the time sequence.
2. A time code signal generator of claim 1, wherein said time code counting and correcting means comprises,
  - correcting value generating means, and
  - time code correcting means, and
  - operating means.
3. A time code generator of claim 2, wherein the correcting value generating means comprises;
  - a counter of which output increases by  $N$  responding to every control signal input,
  - a generator of interpolating value of time code which generates at least  $N-1$  interpolating values.
4. A time code generator of claim 2, wherein the time code correcting means comprises;
  - an adder which adds said initial value of time code and the output of said counter.
5. A time code generator of claim 2, wherein the operating means comprises at least  $N-1$  operating means each one of which receives the output of said time code correcting means, adds interpolating values of time code thereto, and generates a continuous time code.
6. A time code generator for generating a time code to be recorded together with video signals of  $N$  times speed when recording the video signals at a speed of  $N$  times,  $N$  being an integer of 2 or more, comprising:
  - system control means which issues a mode signal for setting the operating state of  $N$  times speed recording said video signals,
  - discrete time code generating means which generates a discrete time code to be counted up in every  $N$  frames,
  - operating means which receives the output of said discrete time code generating means, and generates a continuous time code by interpolation, and
  - time code signal output means which arranges and issues the output of said operating means continuously in the time sequence.
7. A time code generator of claim 6, wherein the operating means comprises at least  $N-1$  operating circuits each one of which receives the output of said discrete time code generating means, adds 1 frame or  $N-1$  frame thereto, and generates a continuous time code.

Fig.1

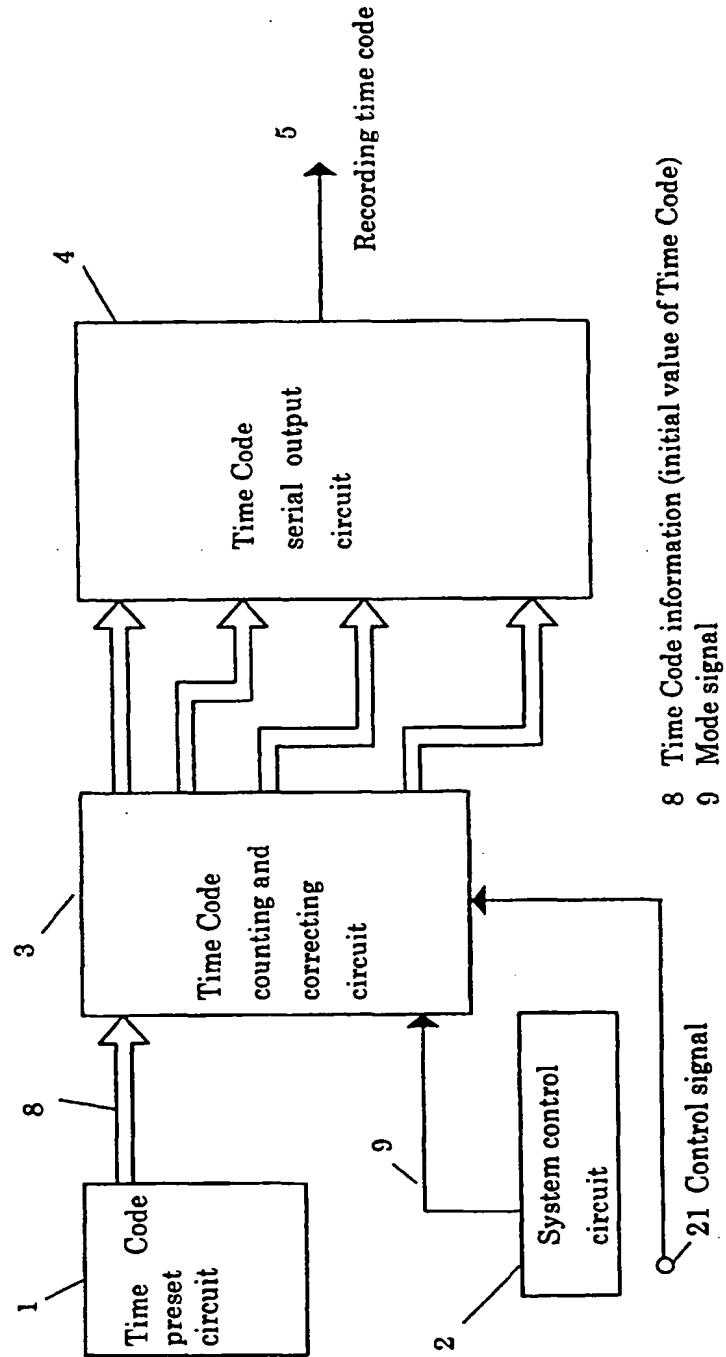


Fig.2

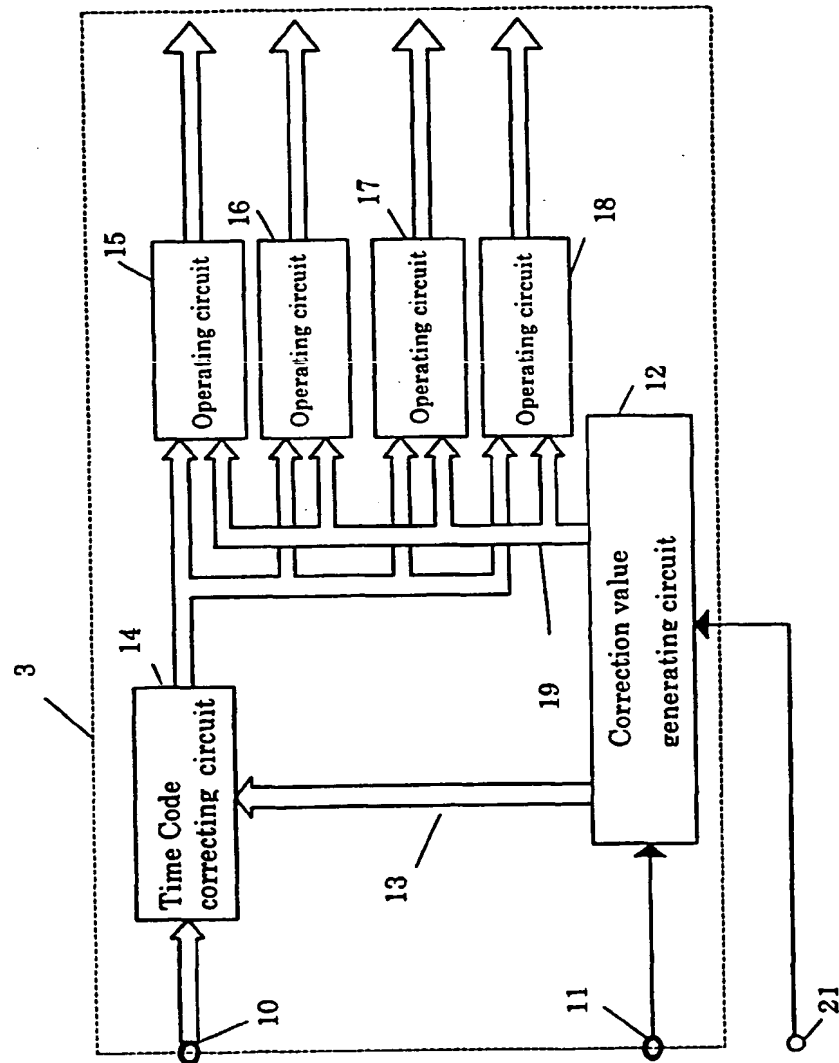


Fig.3

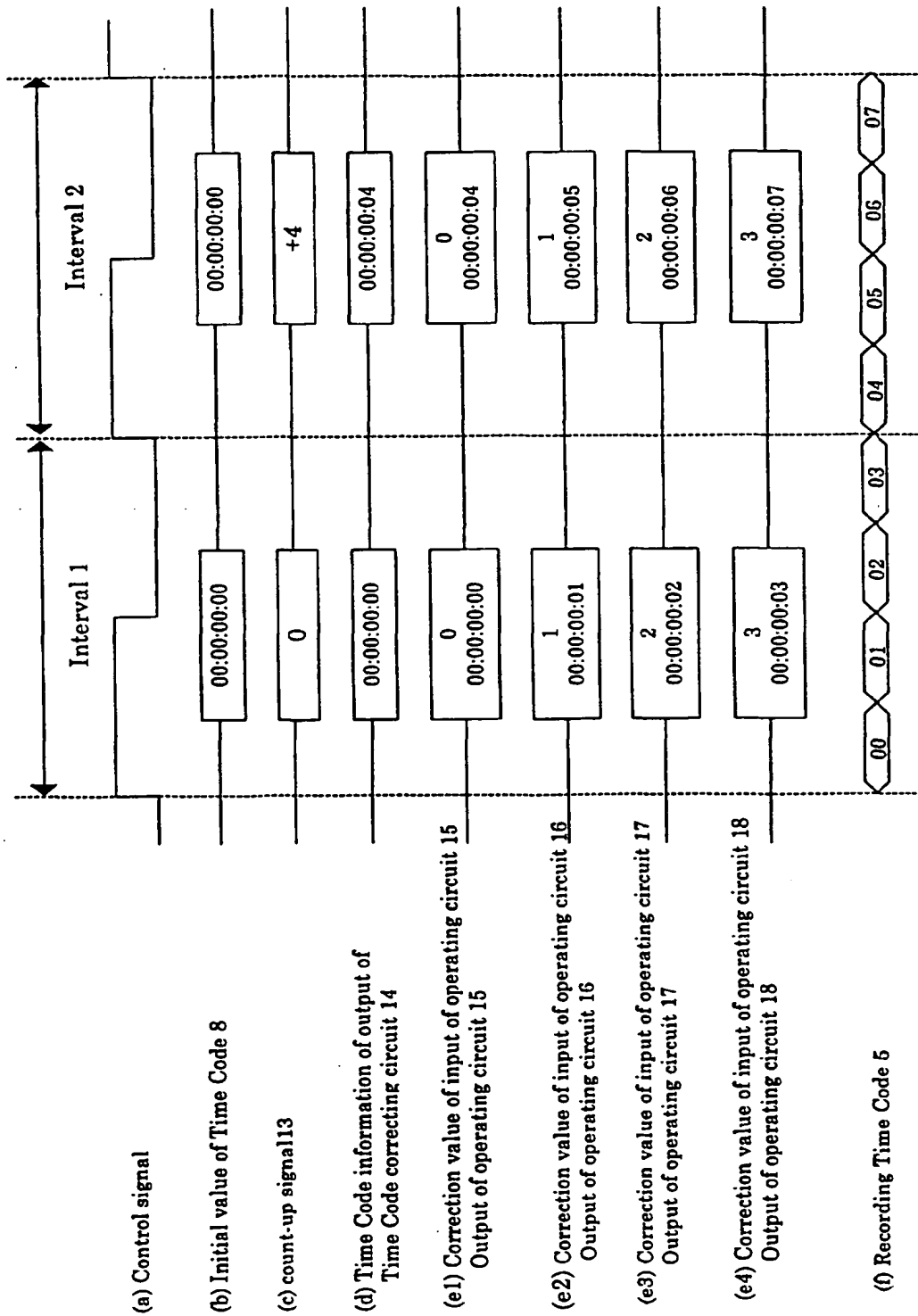
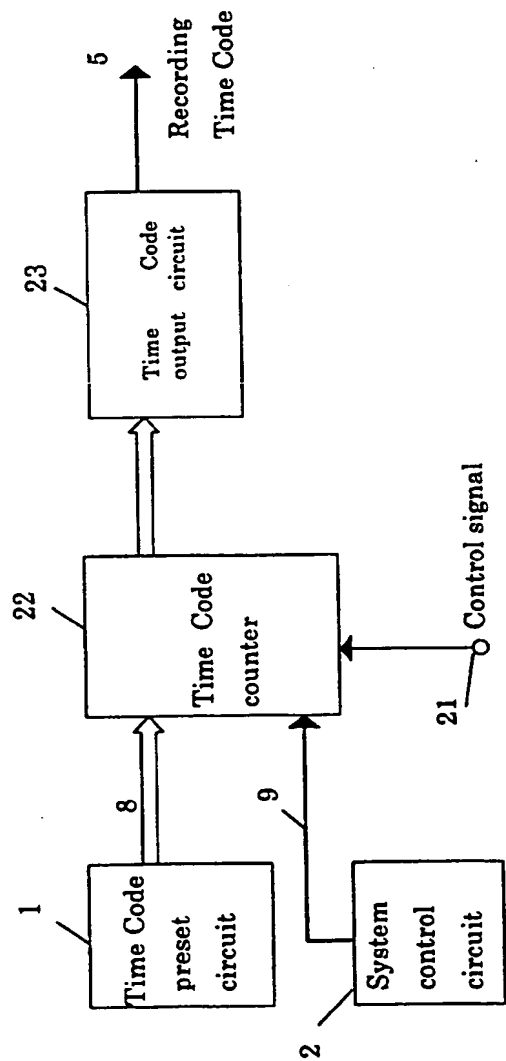
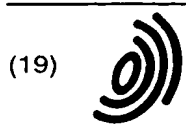


Fig.4







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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 98 11 7461

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	US 4 532 557 A (LARKINS DAVID N) 30 July 1985 (1985-07-30) * abstract * * column 1 - column 7, line 10 * * figures 1,5A,5B,5C *	1-4,6	G11B27/32 G11B27/30 G11B20/10
A	* column 1 - column 7, line 10 * * figure 1 *	5,7	
A	--- US 4 503 470 A (MITA MICHIO ET AL) 5 March 1985 (1985-03-05) * the whole document *	1-7	
A	--- FR 2 444 303 A (KERNFORSCHUNGSZ KARLSRUHE) 11 July 1980 (1980-07-11) * page 4, line 28 - page 8, line 27 *	5,7	
A	--- EP 0 774 753 A (VICTOR COMPANY OF JAPAN) 21 May 1997 (1997-05-21) * column 1, line 40 - column 2, line 50 * * column 7, line 34 - column 8, line 24 * * figure 1 *	1-7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G11B H04N
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>26 March 2001</b>	Examiner <b>Valencia, E</b>
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone  Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category  A : technological background  O : non-written disclosure  P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention  E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date  D : document cited in the application  L : document cited for other reasons  &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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